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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ RESISTANCE GOVERNMENT
POLITICAL PROGRAM; BAGHDAD

1. SUMMARY: The major themes in the daily newspapers on June 5 were the developments of the security and political situations. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

- 1A. "Resistance by animals and water melon" (June 5)

Asharq Al-Awsat (independent, London-based, has wide circulation in Iraq) published a tenth-page editorial by Adnan Hussein about the recent militants' military styles in Iraq:

"Poisoning a watermelon to kill Iraqi soldiers at checkpoints is not resistance-it's murder. Booby-trapping a dog or a donkey with explosives does not represent honest principles. However, these actions are what characterize the current Iraqi resistance. The most famous resistance movements in modern history include the Soviet resistance against the Nazis, the Vietnamese resistance against the American invasion, the Kurdish resistance in Iraq and the Palestinian resistance against the Israeli occupation.

Although fundamentalists and extremists have distorted the Palestinian resistance, the Soviets did not behead Nazis and the Vietnamese resistance did not kidnap journalists and employees of international organizations. The Palestinian resistance, before extremists took over the movement, did not booby-trap cars or animals. Every Iraqi knows that the Kurdish resistance was a great example of a patriotic resistance. It did not conduct sabotage or hurt citizens. It treated its military prisoners nobly.

Making donkeys and dogs carry rockets in order to be detonated is a strong sign that the Iraqi resistance is finding it difficult to recruit new members. Poisoning watermelons indicates that the Iraqi resistance suffers from a lack of supplies. This also shows that its leaders are brutal criminals. According to the latest statistics, in the last month the Iraqi resistance killed 672 Iraqis and wounded 1,174. Most of their victims were women, children and the elderly.

Sheikh Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi has issued a historic Fatwa calling for murder of all these people under the pretext of the enemy's shields. Saddam's followers did not bother themselves to find a nationalistic or patriotic justification to shed Iraqi blood. They believe that Saddam's Qadissiya will continue to hurt the Iraqi people so that Iraq will be a land without inhabitants. Saddam first announced that belief to reporters 25 years ago.

The resistance of booby-trapped animals and poisonous watermelons has supporters. These are the partners of those who booby-trap cars and call for the killing and beheading of Iraqis just because they are Iraqis."

- 1B. "Citizens and the political program" (June 5)

Al-Bayyan (affiliated with Islamic Dawa Party led by Ibrahim Al-Jafari) published a front-page editorial about the government's announced political program:

"The Prime Minister Ibrahim Al-Jafari announced the transitional government's political program in front of the National Assembly. This program addresses the needs and dreams of the Iraqi people. It also compliments the accomplishments of Allawi's government. The program discusses the security and political situations, in addition to the need for municipal services.

The government took a while to announce its political

program. This program did not restrict itself to determining the goals for the transitional period but it included solutions for current problems. It was willing to work toward solutions to these problems despite the fact that the transitional government will only be in office a short time.

The most important reason for applying the government's program is the call for the full cooperation between the Iraqi people and ministries, associations, and all government offices. There must be full cooperation between all the national political parties and the government in order to support the political process. This will benefit all the Iraqi people. The success of the transitional government will reflect the success of the whole political process. If we get through the political process, we will be able to secure the country and stabilize it politically and economically. Without this stability, we will not be able to start reconstruction. On the other hand, to accomplish this program we need the Iraqi people to support it so that it will achieve their goals."

SATTERFIELD